

**From:** [Edward Downs](#)  
**To:** [Barbara Elborn](#); [Chris Ryde](#); [Lenka Zaoralova](#)  
**Cc:** [Rob Guest](#); [Richard Kelly](#); [JElsworth](#)  
**Subject:** Liddel Water  
**Date:** 11 September 2023 20:35:48

---

Dear Barbara

Further to our conversation following your email of the 11th of August, I am writing to respond to the issues you raised. Firstly, as I said when we spoke I am very sorry that some members of the community feel that they were not being listened to and apologise if a member of my staff has been unsympathetic in discussions about the proposed woodland creation scheme. I will be dealing with all communication relating to the proposals from now on and look forward to positive engagement with community members. I have already started liaising with local residents about Foresight and EJDF contributing to red squirrel management in the area and hope that there will be opportunities to develop further joint projects in the future.

Regarding the NCC letter, my responses to the 5 main points are as follows.

1. We were made aware of the speed of water flow on the area of land in the south west corner the site, at the open day and agreed to remove this area from the proposal which is what we've done. A desktop constraints analysis did not reveal this and talking to community members on site we learned of the instances of flooding in the last few years. This shows the benefit of community consultation and I hope that it is understood that we have acted on community feedback. We have altered the design on the north western boundary to remove the conifers on one area and have replaced them with low density native broadleaves. It might be that we need to remove all tree planting from this area of land but await advice from SEPA and further community feedback before we finalise plans for this area. Ideally we'd like to carry out some broadleaf planting in riparian zones, but only if feasible given the site conditions. Regarding the impact on flooding, the proposed tree planting should provide increased flood mitigation downstream of the site. I have worked with Tweed Forum in the past on flood prevention and would welcome the opportunity to do so again. SEPA will opine on our proposals and we will need to follow any advice they give. I am going to discuss the creation of ponds with SEPA and will keep you informed of our plans on this.

2. We're working on improving the landscape impact of the northern boundary by introducing more open space and creating a less angular appearance. As soon as we've produced a draft amendment that allows us to keep within the Forestry Grant Scheme grant thresholds we will share it with you.

3. We have amended the design in this area to include more open space which will allow more and easier access. We are still working on linking this area with the western part of the site and will share the proposed circular route when we have settled on something that is feasible. I have met with local residents on site to discuss this and think we should be able to find a good route.

4. We have included some broadleaves in this area, and currently the design contains just over 15% broadleaves. The main objective of the scheme is to establish productive timber crops and I think this area will be planted.

5. This is just one site being considered for car parking. I have met with local residents and walked the disused railway looking for path creation opportunities through the proposed woodland and talked about the design of the restock woodland adjacent to the railway. We would welcome the opportunity to work with the community on any proposals they have for improving the experience for visitors, and for enhancing biodiversity. At the open day there were numerous suggestions about car park locations. We would be willing to create new car park opportunities on site and if we could get general agreement on location from the community council then that would be much appreciated.

Regarding the suggestion that we consider a continuous cover system for the future management of the site, for most of the site CCF would have a negative impact on timber production. Some of the crops however will be managed on a log term retention/continuous cover basis such as the native broadleaves and Scots pine/broadleave mixture.

The proposed scheme will provide employment opportunities. I have spoken to local contractors who are

interested in doing the fencing and maintenance work. In the first 5 years of the establishment phase there will be an increase in labour requirements compared to the current land use. This will include weeding, beating up, maintenance, management, monitoring and access maintenance and we hope to use local people as much as possible.

As discussed, we are still working on the plans and would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the CC if they wish to do so. We will keep developing the design as we receive feedback from statutory bodies and the community and I will share amended plans with you as we respond to feedback during this pre application process.

I hope this is helpful and look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Ted